
MSFC Safety *Bulletins*

Carbon Monoxide Detector Saves Lives of MSFC Employees

There have been two recent close call incidents where MSFC employees and their families could have lost their lives, had it not been for the carbon monoxide detectors in their homes. Here are their personal stories.

"On Saturday, November 20th, my family was settled in to watch the Alabama/Auburn game. I turned on the heat just to get the chill out of the house since my 10-month-old grandson and daughter were there. The heat had been on about 30-40 minutes.

During the half time, we heard a loud beeping noise, three beeps to be exact, that continued repeating itself. The noise was coming from the carbon monoxide detector that we had purchased three days earlier. It was still on the dining room table, thank goodness we had put batteries in it.

When I picked up the detector, the instructions on the back stated that if you are hearing three beeps leave the premises immediately and call 911.

We did just that....within five minutes, the fire department arrived and tested our home for carbon monoxide. The levels were so high, they felt we would have died within a few hours. They raised all of the windows, examined our heating unit under the house and cut off the gas. After an ambulance ride and a few hours of oxygen we were able to return home. A new gas heating unit was installed the next day."

Connie Witt/CD20, NASA Employee and Organizational Development

"While visiting my mom and sister in Illinois, I discovered they had never bothered to take the CO detector I gave them out of the original box. I plugged it in for them Thanksgiving Day. I took readings at several locations (different rooms) in their duplex and got readings of over 400 parts per million (ppm)! According to OSHA, 50 ppm is the maximum exposure allowed within an 8-hour period. The alarm will sound continuously for any level over 100 ppm.

Fortunately the levels dropped to 63 the next day, but the gas stove (and/or furnace) obviously has venting problems. Now that colder weather is here, please take Carbon Monoxide poisoning seriously.....it might save your life! My mom and sister had complained about fatigue, headaches, and dizziness for months; we were lucky to find the problem. Buy and

install a CO detector -- Be safe, not stubborn!"

Scott L. Bridge, ED13/Avionics Department

To find out more about carbon monoxide see

- [Oklahoma State University Library](#)
- [The American Lung Associaton Fact Sheet](#)